(b) Steps have been taken to reduce the trade deficit by initiating a number of measures to promote exports and curtail inessential imports. The Balance of Payment turn — around plan also aims at augmenting foreign exchange earnings through NRI Deposits/Bonds, additional direct / indirect investments and increased tourism receipts.

Dowry deaths in Delhi

*143. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of dowry deaths in Delhi during the first six months of 1989 and what were the corresponding figures during the last two years;

(b) what is the number of cases which were recommended for prosecution, how many complaints were registered and how many were not filed; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The number of dowry deaths in Delhi during the first six months of 1989 is 47 as against 43 in the first six months of 1988 and 40 in the first six months of 1987.

47 cases were registered from 1.1.1989 to 30.6.1989 In 12 cases challans have been filed in courts.

The following steps have been taken to prevent dowry deaths:—

(i) Offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act have been made cognizable and attract more stringent punishment.

(ii) A new Section has been added in the Indian Penal Code making the offences of harassment and cruelty to women by their husbands and in-laws a cognizable offence.

(iii) New sub-sections 113-A and 113-B have been inserted in the Indian Evidence Act providing for presumption by a Court as to abetment of suicide/dowry death by a married woman if cruelty or harassment for dowry is proved.

(iv) Short-stay Home has been set up by the Delhi Administration for the use of women in distress.

(v) Special Magistrates have been detailed for recording dying declarations.

(vi) Public is being educated through the media about the evil of dowry.

(vii) Instructions have been issued to get postmortem examination conducted by two surgeons in dowry death cases.

(viii) A Special Cell for crime against women under the supervision of a woman Deputy Commissioner of Police has been set up.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम (एन टी सी) की मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण संबंधी कार्यक्रम

*144. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम ने अपनी कपड़ा मिलों को लाभ कमाने के आधार पर चलाये जाने के उद्देश्य से आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान उनका आधुनिकीकरण करने के लिये 600 करोड़ रुपये की राशि दिये जाने का अनुरोध किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त अनुरोध पर विचार किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ?